

IOWA BIRD LIFE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE
IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

VOL. XXIII

JUNE, 1953

NO. 2.



OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

President—Dr. Edward L. Kozicky, Ames, Iowa
Vice-President—Woodward H. Brown, Des Moines, Iowa
Sec'y-Treas.—Mrs. George Crossley, Farley, Iowa
Librarian—Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa
Editor—Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa

Executive Council:

Walter W. Barrett, Sioux City, Iowa
Albert C. Berkowitz, Des Moines, Iowa
Miss C. Esther Copp, Wheatland, Iowa
Mrs. R. S. Ruegnitz, Dubuque, Iowa

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; "The Bulletin," 1929-1930; "Iowa Bird Life," beginning 1931.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$2.00 a year. Single copies 50c each. Subscription to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are four classes, as follows: Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$5.00 a year; Regular Member, \$2.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$1.00 a year.

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE
WINTHROP, IOWA

Entered as second-class matter February 9, 1932, at the post office at Winthrop, Iowa, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT NESTING ACTIVITIES ON BIRGE AND GRASS LAKES, EMMET COUNTY, IOWA 1948¹

By HENRY G. WESTON, JR.²
Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit
Department of Zoology and Entomology
Iowa State College
AMES, IOWA

During the years 1947-1950 the author took active part in the research program of the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit on winter and spring movements of the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). However, from April until August of 1948, attention was centered on the utilization of Birge and Grass Lake Game Areas, in north-central Emmet County, Iowa, for nesting by the pheasants. These two game areas are owned and managed by the Iowa State Conservation Commission.

Birge and Grass lakes, including 137 and 173 acres, respectively, are drained lakebeds. These two public shooting grounds, completely surrounded by intensively farmed land, are known for their winter concentrations of pheasants.

During the spring the observed population of Birge Lake at the start of nesting was 39 (15 cocks and 24 hens); 72 remained in Grass Lake, (22 cocks and 50 hens).

The weather during the spring and summer of the period of this study was characterized by evenly spaced showers and no prolonged spells of unfavorable conditions. Temperatures ranged around normal.

No attempt was made to gather extensive data on general nesting habits, which have been fully covered for northern Iowa by Hamerstrom (1936) and Baskett (1947). Rather, attention was focused more on cover utilized for nesting and the attendant success in such cover.

Nests were found by repeated systematic searching through both areas on foot in order to get as exhaustive a coverage as possible during the nesting season. A hindering factor in undertaking this coverage was the inability to determine if nests found late in the season were first, second or third attempts at nesting by hens. A clutch of two or more eggs in a nest form constituted a nest; and if one egg hatched, the nest was considered to be successful.

Egg-laying began about a week before the first nest was found (Table 1). During this period, April 18-24, lone eggs were "dropped" by hens without any attempt to form a nest. The first eggs were observed to hatch between May 16-22. The last known nest hatched during the week of August 1-7.

TABLE 1. SIGNIFICANT PHEASANT NESTING ACTIVITIES,
SPRING-SUMMER, 1948

Week	Activity
March 14-20—	Winter flock breakup
March 14-20—	First observed spring crowing by cocks
April 18-24—	First known egg-laying
April 25-May 1—	First known nest established
May 16-22—	First known eggs to hatch
August 1-7—	Last known eggs to hatch

¹Journal Paper No. J-2215 of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa, Project No. 497. The Fish and Wildlife Service (U. S. Department of Interior), Iowa State College, Iowa State Conservation Commission, and the Wildlife Management Institute co-operating. The author wishes to express his sincere thanks to Drs. Thomas G. Scott and Edward L. Koziy for their help in this study. Thanks are due the former for his help in organizing the field work, the latter for his help in the preparation of this article.

²Now at Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa.

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF NEST DATA ON THE
RING-NECKED PHEASANT, BIRGE AND GRASS LAKE
GAME AREAS, 1948

	Grass Lake	Birge Lake	Total
Hatched	9	4	13
Destroyed*	39	13	52
Known desertion	3	2	5
Dump nest	1	—	1
Fate unknown	1	—	1
Total	53	19	72

*Seventeen destroyed by harvesting machines (mowers, binders or combines). Causes of destruction of remaining nests not known.

Hens continued to drop single eggs promiscuously at intervals during the nesting season. Thirty-five were encountered at Grass Lake during this period, seven at Birge. One single "dump" nest was found at Grass Lake with 26 eggs in it during first three weeks of the nesting season.

At Grass Lake (Table 2) only nine out of 53 (16.9 percent) of the nests found were successful; at Birge Lake (Table 3) four out of 19 (21.0 percent). Factors bringing about nest failures were difficult to determine with any certainty in most cases.

Because of the similarity of cover on the two areas, the respective types found on both areas have been discussed as one. Of 21 nests established in the blue grass (*Poa pratensis*), only one was successful. Two nests from a total of nine established in bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.) at Grass Lake were successful. These nests were well protected on all sides and a dense, natural canopy overhead offered additional protection. Two out of seven nesting attempts were successful in the dense giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*) at Grass Lake. These were relatively early nests. Giant ragweed grows very rapidly and by early June becomes extremely dense and tall.

The one nest established in mixed giant ragweed and bulrushes at Birge Lake was destroyed by some undetermined predator. Three of seven nests placed in reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) were successful. All nests were placed in the excellent nesting cover afforded by the uncult stands on both areas. No nests were established in the 11.5 acres of mown canary grass at Birge Lake or in the four acres of brome grass (*Bromus* sp.). However, eight nests were found in the nine acres of brome at Grass Lake; one was successful. The other seven nests were destroyed by mowing on June 8 and 9. No hens were lost in the mowing operations.

Six nests were destroyed in one nine-acre stand of brome and alfalfa at Birge Lake. No hens were injured. Ten nests were established in the stands of barley at each area. At Birge Lake, two clutches hatched and four were destroyed by a farm combine machine. At Grass Lake one nest was successful and three were destroyed by a binder. The only nest found in the oats was at Grass Lake. It hatched successfully before the oats were harvested. No nests were found in the corn at either area nor in the soybeans at Birge Lake. One hen was successful and hatched 13 eggs in a nest in a strawstack at Birge Lake. Clutch size at Birge Lake averaged 8.18 eggs; at Grass Lake, 10.78 eggs.

Accurate data on number of young hatched at each of the two areas were not available. At Grass Lake, five of nine successful nests produced 47 chicks. At Birge Lake, three of four successful nests produced 31 chicks. Insufficient information was gathered on brood counts on the areas to warrant discussion.

SUMMARY

1. Nesting data were gathered on Birge and Grass Lake Game Areas in north-central Emmet County, Iowa, between April and August, 1948. The

observed pheasant population on the Birge Lake Area at the start of nesting was 39 (15 cocks and 24 hens). Seventy-two remained in the Grass Lake Area, including 22 cocks and 50 hens.

2. First eggs were laid during the week of April 18-24. The first nests observed were established between April 25 and May 1, while the first eggs hatched in the week of May 16-22. The last eggs known to hatch were in the week of August 1-7.

3. Nesting suffered heavy losses on both areas. At Grass Lake nine out of 53 (16.9 percent) nests were successful; at Birge Lake four out of 19 (21.0 percent).

4. Blue grass was most often used (39.6 percent) for nesting on Grass Lake; barley (31.6 percent) and mixed alfalfa-brome (31.6 percent) on Birge Lake.

LITERATURE CITED

Baskett, T. S.

1947. Nesting and production of the Ring-necked Pheasant in north-central Iowa. *Ecol. Monographs*, 17 (1): 1-30.

Hamerstrom, F. N., Jr.

1936. A study of the nesting habits of the Ring-necked Pheasant in northwest Iowa. *Iowa State Coll. Jour. Sci.*, 10: 173-203.

THE MOUNT VERNON CONVENTION

By MRS. GEORGE CROSSLEY

Secy.-Treas., Iowa Ornithologists' Union

The Mt. Vernon Bird Club was host to the 31st annual convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, held Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17, at Cornell College in honor of its centennial year. Registration for the meeting was at 9:00 a.m., at Armstrong Hall.

The morning session, held in the auditorium, opened at 9:30 with speeches of welcome by Dean Hartzell and Miss Dorothy Marcue, president of the host club, with the response by our President, Albert C. Berkowitz. The first speaker was George W. Worley, of the State Conservation Commission, who talked on "Understanding and Appreciation—Keys to Conservation". He stated that the public is indifferent to the cause of conservation of our natural resources because of a lack of basic knowledge in understanding our dependence on these resources. To combat this apathy and ignorance the commission is promoting a program of education and teaching through experience. He stated that the teacher conservation camp at Springbrook and the 4-H Clubs throughout the state are already doing splendid work in this direction.

Dr. George O. Hendrickson, Iowa State College, followed with an interesting and entertaining discussion on "Habits of the Field Sparrow". Credit was given to Malcolm Crooks from whose Master's thesis the information was secured. After noting the general habitat of the bird, Dr. Hendrickson gave a detailed report on the bird as a songster. It was found that the Field Sparrow was one of the earliest birds to sing in the morning, one which continues to sing throughout the day, and has a vesper song in the evening. Also observed were variations in the patterns of songs among the individual male singers. In conclusion Dr. Hendrickson mentioned that anyone interested in changing the names of birds could easily begin with this sparrow and call it the Pasture Sparrow, since it is definitely a bird of the pasture.

Continuing the program, Mrs. H. R. Peasley of Des Moines made a few explanatory remarks before the showing of the color film, "A Pine Grosbeak Record For Iowa", taken January 11, 1953, by Dr. H. R. Peasley. In spite of the wintry day, excellent views of an immature male Pine Grosbeak eat-

ing crab apple seeds in a tree at the Des Moines Waterworks Park provided sure identification for so rare a visitor to that part of Iowa—a 50 year record for Polk County. This Grosbeak remained in the area until the middle of March.

Concluding the morning session, Dr. Robert Vane, Cedar Rapids, showed his color film, "To Forest and Stream". These pictures were taken over a period of two and one-half years at Dark Hollow, Palisades-Kepler and Lake Macbride State Parks. Dr. Vane made us aware of the scenic beauty of these areas at all times of the year, the abundance and variety of flowers and trees, and the opportunities offered to observe bird life. Outstanding among the excellent bird pictures were those of the Cliff Swallow and its nesting activities, and the candid views of the many owls: Barred, Great Horned, Saw-whet, Long-eared, and Snowy (a 1950 winter visitor).

"Summer Work at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory", was the subject of Dr. Martin Grant, State Teachers College, on the afternoon program. This laboratory is located in Dickinson County near Okoboji, and comprises an area of 100 acres of virgin forest and prairie; an area superior in vegetation to that of any other place in Iowa. With a series of colored slides, Dr. Grant commented on the uniqueness of the area as a place for work for students interested in research and natural science projects. Notable among plant life were five kinds of duckweed, 100 varieties of grasses, wild rice, white buttercup, fringed prairie orchid and others. Among birds to be found were Ring-billed Gull, Black Tern, Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Florida Gallinule, King Rail, and Marsh Hawk. A species of sponge growing in the ponds is unusual for this part of the country. A few pictures were from Oak Grove and Gitchee Manitou State Parks, the latter the only place in Iowa where cactus plants and desert vegetation are to be found.



OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Photographed by Hugh M. Roberts in Upper Palisades after the field trip was over, May 17, 1953. Left to right: Albert C. Berkowitz, retiring President; Mrs. Frieda Crossley, Secy.-Treasurer; Woodward H. Brown, Vice-President; Dr. Edward L. Kozicky, President; Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Librarian; Fred J. Pierce, Editor of "Iowa Bird Life".

Dr. Paul L. Errington, Iowa State College, followed with an interesting review of his research on "The Quail of 'Back of Beyond' ". The population of Quail was centered in the Southeast in presettlement days. With the westward advance of the pioneers and the ensuing changes brought about by the cultivation of the land, the Quail were forced to find or adapt themselves to new habitat in order to survive. This change in range followed a north, northwesterly direction. In the '80's Quail were found everywhere in Iowa. The present range extends through the Dakotas where the half cultivated and half virgin land is ideal for its development. To survive the bird must have food, cover, and space. Dr. Errington pointed out the adaptability of the bird based on population data in areas of drought, extreme temperatures, burnt-over wood land, and general cultivation of land. He found the Quail able to maintain its own range and species; if not in great numbers, at least always holding its own in spite of hardships. Other factors entering in were the racial resilience of the species and the high rate of gain made when the environment was favorable. Today the Quail is competing for space with the Pheasant. Dr. Errington commented on the increase in size among the birds. This ranges from 5½ ounces for birds in the southern states to 7 ounces for birds in the northern tier of states.

Walter W. Bennett, Arnolds Park, concluded the program with the showing of his sound-color film, "The Life of the Killdeer". In watching the picture the members were asked to note particularly the behavior of the bird when enemies approached the nest. Instead of the much-publicized "broken wing" act, Mr. Bennett preferred to think of the Killdeer as using color and motion to distract the attention of the enemy (shown beautifully in the picture). He stated that these points were stressed in the field of advertising.

Due to the absence of Dr. Mary Roberts, Corona, California, her scheduled film, "Florida Wild Life," was not shown.

President A. C. Berkowitz called the group to order for the business meeting. Upon motion made and seconded, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. A balance of \$795.38 was reported in the treasury. All Iowa bird clubs were invited to become members and affiliate with our organization. The certificate of incorporation received from the State of Iowa, along with the Articles of Incorporation, are to be placed with the Librarian. Dr. Peter Laude read the new Constitution and by-laws as revised by our President and Executive Council. Upon motion made and seconded, they were unanimously approved.

Librarian, Dr. J. H. Ennis reported volumes 11 to 20 of "Iowa Bird Life" bound and placed in the library. Gifts to the library included a manuscript, "Birds of Washington Park, Albany, New York," by Mrs. Dayton Stoner, a copy of Althea Sherman's book by Arthur Palas and Fred J. Pierce, and an Anderson-DuMont publication by Drs. F. L. and Mary Roberts. Dr. Ennis continued his request for old issues of our magazine to be placed in the library. Editor Pierce requested articles and notes for publication in our magazine.

Discussion among the members on the old question of revising our state check-list resulted in a motion that Woodward Brown, Des Moines, act as a clearing house in the compilation of Iowa bird records to be sent to him by bird clubs and individuals in areas where there are no clubs. This motion was seconded and carried.

Greetings were extended to the members from Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, Des Moines, and Miss Zell Lee, Sioux City, who were unable to attend the convention.

The president appointed the following committees: Nominating: Bruce Stiles, Lillian Serbousek, and Charles Ayres, Jr.; Resolutions: George Crossley, Myrle Jones, Mrs. Robert Ruegnitz; Checking list on field trip: Dr. George O. Hendrickson, Dr. Martin Grant, Dr. Robert Vane; Auditing: Woodward Brown.

Charles C. Ayres, Jr., suggested that all members write to the Morrell Co. requesting that the original bird paintings of Roger Tory Peterson, to be used by them for 1955 calendar, be given our organization for our library.

Members were invited to visit the Memorial Library of Ornithology, in the Law Building, at the close of the morning and afternoon sessions. In the lobby of Armstrong Hall the group had opportunity to peruse recent books on ornithology and natural history as brought and displayed by Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Pierce.

The annual banquet was served at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of the Presbyterian church. The Mt. Vernon High School woodwind quintette, winners in the state music contest, (with David, son of Dr. and Mrs. Ennis a member) provided a number for our enjoyment. After the banquet the group went to King Memorial Chapel, joining the many friends of the Mt. Vernon Bird Club already assembled, to be entertained by the showing of color films and accompanying lecture entitled, "Exploring the Everglades," by Murl Deusing of the Milwaukee Public Museum. These films illustrated beautifully the many and varied patterns of ecological development found in the Everglades at a high elevation of 15 feet to a low of sea level, and the accompanying variety of plant and animal life peculiar to each life zone. The human aspect was portrayed through the life of the Seminole Indians—a native culture changing gradually with the advance of white men's influence in this region. Mr. Deusing gave ample proof that the Everglades form an area of extraordinary beauty— weird and fantastic.

Sunday breakfast was served by a local restaurant at a cloudy 4 a.m. to those going on the field trips. Four trips were scheduled with the follow-



COMPILING THE FIELD TRIP LIST

Dr. George Hendrickson reading the bird names while members check their lists. Photographed in the Upper Palisades shelter house, Sunday, May 17, 1953, by Hugh M. Roberts.

ing leaders: Dark Hollow, Palisades-Kepler State Park, Dr. Meyer; Muskrat Slough and neighboring territory, Dr. Ennis; Swan Lake, Iowa River Valley, Amana Lake, Dr. Laude; Spring Hollow, C Street Woods, Cedar Lake, Dr. Vane. By mid-morning a light rain descended, limiting the activities of the birds and birders. All groups met for one o'clock luncheon at the Upper Palisades. A short business meeting followed. The bird count totaled 138 species. Mr. Crossley read the report of the Resolutions Committee. Mr. Stiles, chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the list of new officers (as given on the title page of this issue), who were unanimously elected by a voice vote of the members. The membership expressed its appreciation to Dr. Ennis for a most enjoyable convention, and to our retiring President, A. C. Berkowitz, for work accomplished and contributed by him for the benefit of our Union. A convention of fine fellowship was then adjourned.

Resolutions.—BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union assembled at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon on May 16 and 17, 1953, that we extend our very sincere thanks and appreciation to Cornell College for making available to us its excellent facilities to assure a successful meeting, and we in turn are pleased to be its guest in this centennial year.

Be it further resolved that we especially thank the Mt. Vernon Bird Club, our host for this convention, its president, Miss Dorothy Marcue, and in particular Dr. J. Harold Ennis for providing every detail so carefully and completely.

Be it further resolved that the Union express its appreciation to Charles Ayres, Jr., and Arthur Palas for their services in arranging the Articles of Incorporation under the laws of the State of Iowa.

Be it further resolved that we thank all those who contributed to our program, making it one of the most interesting which we have enjoyed.

Be it further resolved that the Secretary be instructed to send a greeting to Miss Zell Lee from the members of the Union.

Be it further resolved that we again extend our continued appreciation to our Editor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Pierce, for giving so much of their time to making "Iowa Bird Life" a noteworthy publication.

Be it further resolved that we extend special thanks to Mr. Murl Deusing for his exceptionally interesting illustrated lecture, "Exploring the Everglades".

Respectfully submitted.

George E. Crossley, Chairman

Myrle Jones

Mrs. Robert Ruegnitz

Attendance Register.—AMES, Dr. P. L. Errington, Dr. Geo. Hendrickson, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Johnson, Dr. E. L. Kozicky, Helen Smith; ARNOLDS PARK, W. W. Bennett; CEDAR FALLS, Dr. and Mrs. M. L. Grant; CEDAR RAPIDS, Dorothy Brunner, Esther Copp, Margaret Dickey, Lavina Dragoo, Dr. V. O. Hasek, Ondre Hasek, Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Meyer, Ethel Orr, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Petranek, Rose Richards, Lillian Serbousek, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Steffen, Dr. L. F. Vane, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Pauline Wershofen, Myra Willis; COGGON, Robt. Pike, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pike; DAVENPORT, Thos. Morrissey, Pete Petersen, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Pete C. Petersen, Betty Swain, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Swain; DECORAH, Mrs. Alden Bauder, Angie Henning, Mrs. Burt Henning, Kay Henning, Mrs. Tom Henning, Mrs. A. C. Lynch; DES MOINES, Dorothy Anderson, Abby Berkowitz, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Berkowitz, Mrs. A. C. Binsfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Woodward Brown, Ruth Chapman, Mrs. W. R. Gruwell, Mrs. Lester Haskell, Bertha Miller, Mrs. H. R. Peasley, Estella Reynolds, Irene Smith, Bruce Stiles, Lynn Willcocks, Geo. Worley; DUBUQUE, Clifford Johnson, Mrs. Merrill Pregler, Mrs. Robt.

Ruegnitz, Ival Schuster, Edra Walter; ESTHERVILLE, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones; FARLEY, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Crossley; INDEPENDENCE, Ruth Funk; IOWA CITY, Fred Kent, Dr. and Mrs. P. P. Laude; LISBON, Rev. M. C. Melcher; MT. VERNON, Dr. Earle A. Baker, Mrs. Barry, Mrs. J. W. Bean, Roger Brush, David Ennis, Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Ennis, Mrs. Karl Hartzell, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Ink, Martha Lahman, Dorothy Marcue, Pat Riley, Mrs. B. Scobey, J. W. Strickland, Bertha West; NEWTON, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Moore; OTTUMWA, Chas. C. Ayres, Jr., Chas. C. Ayres, Sr., Darlene Pullins, Mrs. C. W. Soots; SIGOURNEY, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Millikin; SIOUX CITY, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Barrett, Bob Nickolson, Mrs. T. C. Stephens; STORM LAKE, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Mildenstein; SUMNER, Earl Freeman; WATERLOO, Dr. Myrle Burk, Helen Hawkins, Russell Hays, Leora Pierce, Pearl Rader, Dr. C. W. Robertson; WEBSTER CITY, Dennis Carter; WINTHROP, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Pierce; EAST MOLINE, ILL., Mr. and Mrs. Elton Fawks; MILWAUKEE, WIS., Mr. and Mrs. Murl Deusing; NAPERVILLE, ILL., Dr. Warren Keck; ADDRESS UNKNOWN*, Mrs. Brodin, Mrs. Louis Boehmey, Miss Dallinger, Bill Diedrickson, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hayard, Loyd Kern, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Kern, Patrica Kray, Frank Nissen, Bill Wernimont. Total registered, 133.

*The attendance register was submitted as a list of names without addresses. By checking the membership list and other sources, we were able to fill in all addresses with the exception of these 12.—Ed.

Birds Seen on the Field Trip, May 17, 1953.—Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue, Green, and Black-crowned Night Herons, American and Least Bitterns, Mallard, American Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Wood, Ring-necked, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Ducks, Red-head, Buffle-head (Forrest Millikin), Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks, Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, King and Virginia Rails, Sora, Florida Gallinule, American Coot, Semipalmated and Upland Plovers, Killdeer, Spotted, Solitary, Pectoral, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Western Willet, Dowitcher, Common



LOOKING AT WATER BIRDS

On the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Field Trip, Sunday, May 17, Fred Kent, who took this photograph, suggests that cars should be made with turret tops and extension ladders for the use of bird students.

and Black Terns, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-thr. Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Kingbird, Crested, Least and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House, Carolina, Prairie Marsh and Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood, Olive-backed, and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Migrant Shrike, Starling, Bell's (Mrs. Lester Haskell), Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Black and White, Prothonotary, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Myrtle, Cerulean, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll, Palm, Mourning, and Wilson's Warblers, Oven-bird, Grinnell's and Louisiana Water-Thrushes, Northern Yellow-throat, Am. Redstart, Bobolink, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, *Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, English, Grasshopper, Vesper, Lark, Chipping, Field, Harris's, White-crnd., White-throated, Swamp and Song Sparrows. Total, 138

*A flock of 12 Pine Siskins seen in Lake Macbride State Park. They were carefully observed by Ayres, Kent, Jones, Pierce, Laude and others on this trip.

A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT KOZICKY

As your new President, I have spent some time in the past few weeks reflecting on the past and future of our Union. Our preceding officers have turned over the organization to us in excellent condition. Our finances are in the black; we are incorporated; and the Constitution and by-laws have been revised in accordance with the incorporation. Now what about the future? Those of us who have been members for a number of years have enjoyed the firm friendships that were started through a mutual interest at our annual spring conventions or fall gatherings. Also, we have taken just pride in publishing a quarterly periodical dedicated to Iowa bird life. Certainly then, we have something to offer to every person interested in Iowa birds.

Some of us have been concerned, and rightfully so, about check-list, the distribution of birds within the state, etc. These problems require committees of interested and competent individuals with sufficient spare time to devote to such projects.

For the coming year there is one committee on which we can all serve—the Membership Committee. Certainly all of us know at least one person who enjoys birding and has not been asked to join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. So, in short our main objective as an organization in the coming year is to



DR. EDWARD L. KOZICKY

increase our membership. How can we accomplish this objective? Let's adopt the slogan, "Every member get a new member in 1953."

Sincerely,

EDWARD L. KOZICKY

GENERAL NOTES

Partially Albino Chickadee.—On April 21, 1953, while approaching Black Hawk Creek through a somewhat brushy area, I was looking at some Song Sparrows when I spotted a Chickadee going into a small stump. I decided to investigate when another small bird flew into the stump. I could see no black cap and when I got a good look at the bird I found it had no cap at all and the head was mottled greyish white. This bird was in and out of the hole much more than the other one, and I decided that the partial albino was a female who had gotten a mate in spite of her strange appearance. I had never before seen any but normally plumaged Chickadees.—RUSSELL M. HAYS, Waterloo, Iowa.

Notes on the Flight Habits of Birds.—John C. W. Bliese and Dr. George Hendrickson wrote of the "dipping" flight of the Bronzed Grackle going to roost (Iowa Bird Life, June, 1952). Our part of town in Spirit Lake, Iowa, has also been a roost for them in recent years. They are a great problem. One neighbor shoots into the trees. That may kill a few and it chases the rest to other trees in the neighborhood; but when they are shot at in the new location they soon return. By slapping a board against the garage door, we made a sharp, explosive sound which was more effective than the sound of a gun, but the effect was just as temporary.

Gulls roost on Spirit Lake in large numbers. When they leave in the morning, they fly with the wind, some of them more than 100 miles. They return in the evening, usually flying against the wind. They have the same dipping flight that Bliese and Hendrickson describe. Like their grackles, as we recall, they do not do it until they are near the roost. We have supposed it was done to take advantage of the shifting air currents, but of course we don't know that. Possibly it is an old pattern, developed to avoid raptorial birds which may be waiting in the neighborhood of roosts.

Now that this behavior has been pointed out, perhaps the combined notes of many observers of several species of birds may solve the problem.—DRS. FRANK AND MARY ROBERTS, Corona, California.

Iowa Meeting of Ill. Audubon Society and Tri-City Bird Club.—The joint meeting of the Illinois Audubon Society and the Tri-City Bird Club, held at Davenport on April 18 and 19, proved to be a very enjoyable affair, with 52 registering for the indoor session in the Davenport Public Museum and 92 attending the evening banquet. On Sunday morning, April 19, there was a field trip to the Thompson-Savanna area; 51 people participated and a list of 98 species of birds was compiled. Papers on the program included: "Recent Changes in Local Bird Life", by James Hodges; "Comparison of Bird Life Between the Tri-Cities and Chicago", by Elton Fawks; "Birds of the Bible" and "On Retaining Our Amateur Status" by Msgr. Thomas J. Feeney; "A Study of Owl Pellets", by Peter Petersen, Jr.; "Bird Parasites", by Thomas J. Morrissey; "Birding Along the Lake Shore", by Bertha Huxford; "Birding in the Chicago Area", by Paul Lobik; "Remarks about the Illinois Audubon Society", by Paul E. Downing; "Notes on Bird-banding", by Karl E. Bartel; "Birding at the Audubon Camp in Maine", by Norwood Hazard.

Correction.—In the article entitled "Field Sparrow Life History in Central Iowa" by Malcolm P. Crooks and George O. Hendrickson in Iowa Bird Life 23(1):10-13, March, 1953, in reference to heights of nests, the word

"inches" should be substituted for the word "feet" in paragraph five, page 10, and in the summary, page 13. The junior author alone is responsible for the error.—GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON.

Bird Notes from Northern Iowa.—On September 23 and October 6, 1952, I saw Florida Gallinules at Clear Lake. They were across the highway from the lake itself, in a muddy reed flat; I saw three and there may have been more among the reeds. I also saw a Caspian Tern at Clear Lake on September 23. On April 17, 1952, when I was at the lake, I saw several Buffleheads and a number of Horned Grebes. I saw Red-breasted Mergansers at Clear Lake on April 3.

Here at home I recorded Bewick's Wren on April 16 and 17, 1952; Parula Warbler on September 27; and a little flock of Pine Siskins on November 20. The Siskins stopped for a few minutes in a bush just outside our living room window. I believe the spring rains and ungrazed grassland along our creek accounted for a female Lesser Scaup Duck April 30 to May 8, an American Coot in April, and a Virginia Rail on April 20. On July 20, I saw a small flock of Pectoral Sandpipers, which were back from their nesting grounds. They were near a watery place in the meadow pasture. Upland Plovers were seen in late July and early August; I counted five on August 8. I saw two Swainson's Hawks during the summer of 1952. I enjoyed the singing of several Short-billed Marsh Wrens along our creek during August. The extremely dry weather of the fall seemed to spoil the sparrow migration. Bluebirds were very scarce in this area during 1952. My total bird list for the year was 147 species, seen on or in the air above our farm.—PEARL KNOOP, Marble Rock, Iowa.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION*

The following Articles shall govern the operation of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, as provided for in Article 11 of the Articles of Incorporation of this Association.

Article I—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person 16 years of age or older who is interested in furthering the aims of this Union is eligible for active membership.

Section 2. There shall be three classes of active membership as follows—Contributing, Supporting and Regular.

Section 3. All active members shall have the right to vote, and shall be eligible to hold office and to serve on committees.

Section 4. There shall be a class of Junior Membership in the Union, for which any person under 16 years of age is eligible. Junior members shall not have the right to vote, hold office or serve on committees.

Section 5. Any person shall be accepted as member in the appropriate membership class upon payment of dues to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 6. All classes of membership shall receive the publication "Iowa Bird Life".

Section 7. Any person whose dues are six months past due shall automatically be dropped from membership.

Section 8. A member may be deprived of membership for cause, by a vote of two-thirds of the members voting at the annual meeting, provided a quorum is present and voting.

Article II—DUES

Section 1. The annual dues for the three classes of active membership shall be as follows:

*Formally adopted at the Mt. Vernon meeting, May 16, 1953.

Contributing members—\$10.00

Supporting members—\$5.00

Regular members—\$2.00

Section 2. The annual dues of the Junior members shall be one dollar.

Section 3. All dues shall be due on January 1st.

Article III—QUORUM

Section 1. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be the active members present at any annual or other meeting, provided the number shall be not less than fifteen.

Section 2. A quorum of the Executive Council shall be not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council; but business including voting, which properly may be carried on by the Council, may be done by the Council through correspondence when expedient to do so.

Article IV—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Executive Council shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Librarian, Editor, and three additional members. The immediate Past-President shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Council; and all other past presidents shall be honorary members of the Executive Council and shall act in an advisory capacity.

Section 2. Committees shall be appointed by the President, except such committees as may be especially provided for at the annual meetings.

Article V—DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. Duties of the President. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Union, to appoint committees, as provided in Article VI, Section 2, and to perform such other duties as may properly pertain to the office. He shall be responsible for the preparation of the program of the annual meeting, with the help of such committees as he may wish to appoint. He shall have the power to call a meeting of the Executive Council or, to secure the vote or opinion of the Council through correspondence.

Section 2. Duties of the Vice-President. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to act in the absence or incapacity of the President.

Section 3. Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to keep a record of all meetings of the Union and of business transacted by the Executive Council, to conduct the general correspondence of the Union, to receive and have charge of all moneys of the Union, to pay such bills as are endorsed by the President or the Editor, and to perform such other duties as properly pertain to the office.

Section 4. Duties of the Editor. It shall be the duty of the Editor to superintend the periodical publications of the Union.

Section 5. Duties of the Librarian. It shall be the duty of the Librarian, with the approval of the President and the Secretary-Treasurer, to collect, preserve and supervise the use of records relative to Iowa ornithology having historical or scientific value. Such records shall be placed in a public institution having facilities for preserving and handling them. The records shall remain the property of the Union and shall be deposited in the institution which the current Librarian may elect.

Section 6. Duties of the Executive Council. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council to fix the date and place of the annual meeting if such has not been determined at the preceding annual meeting, to audit the books of the Secretary-Treasurer, to fill by appointment any offices which shall become vacant during the year, and to carry on any necessary business of the Union which may require action between meetings of the Union.

Article VI—ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. The term of office of all officers, including members of the Executive Council, and members of all standing and special committees, shall

extend from the end of the annual meeting at which they were elected or appointed, or from any subsequent time of appointment, to the end of the next annual meeting.

Section 2. Nominations of officers, including members of the Executive Council, shall be made by a nominating committee of three members appointed by the President at the opening session of the annual meeting. The nominating committee shall meet immediately after the close of the first session. At such meeting any active member may appear and propose the names of members for nomination for any offices. The nominating committee shall report its nominations and the names of any other members proposed to it for nomination to offices. Nominations may also be made from the floor before or during elections.

Article VII—AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws may be adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members present at any annual meeting, provided a quorum is voting.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, hereby associate ourselves in a body corporate under the provisions of Chapter 504 of the 1950 Code of Iowa, assuming all the powers, rights and privileges granted to bodies corporate, and accepting the duties and obligations imposed by said chapter, and we do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE 1. NAME. The name of this corporation shall be The Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

ARTICLE 2. PLACE OF BUSINESS. The principal place of business shall be Winthrop, Buchanan County, Iowa.

ARTICLE 3. PERIOD OF EXISTENCE. The period of existence and duration of the life of this corporation shall be fifty (50) years unless sooner dissolved by a three-fourths vote of all the members thereof or by act of the General Assembly or by operation of law.

ARTICLE 4. OBJECTS. The objects of this corporation shall be to encourage interest in and the study and protection of birds and to more closely unite all those persons who have this interest in common.

ARTICLE 5. OFFICERS. The officers of the corporation shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, an Editor, a Librarian and the members of an Executive Council. All officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the corporation, a majority vote of the members present being necessary for election. The term of all officers shall extend for one year from the end of the annual meeting at which they are elected and until the end of the next annual meeting or until their successor shall have been elected. Any vacancy in any office or on the Board of Directors shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Council.

Until the first annual meeting of this corporation, which shall be held in the month of May on the date to be fixed as hereinafter provided, and until the successors are elected and have qualified, the following named persons shall constitute the officers of this corporation:

President—Albert C. Berkowitz

Vice-President—Peter P. Laude

Secretary-Treasurer—Frieda M. Crossley

Editor—Fred J. Pierce

Librarian—J. Harold Ennis

Executive Council: Walter W. Barrett

Mrs. E. J. Petranek

Clifford O. Johnson

ARTICLE 6. ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting of the members of this corporation shall be held in the month of May at such place and on such date as has been fixed at the previous meeting or if not so fixed, at such place and date as the Executive Council shall decide upon.

The annual meeting of the Executive Council of the corporation shall be held in the course of the regular annual meeting.

Other meetings of both the members and the Executive Council may be called in such manner as is provided for in the constitution and by-laws of the corporation.

ARTICLE 7. The private property of the officers and members of this corporation shall be exempt from corporate debts.

ARTICLE 8. All conveyances and mortgages of real property made by the corporation shall be executed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary with the impression of the corporate seal, if the corporation has one, and all releases of mortgages, liens, judgments and other claims that are required by law to be made of record may be executed by any officer of the corporation and all other legal instruments required to be executed in the ordinary course of the conduct of the business of the corporation may be executed in the corporate name by any officer of the corporation.

ARTICLE 9. CORPORATE POWERS. The corporation shall have all the powers, rights, privileges and immunities provided by law. It may acquire real or personal property for such purposes appropriate to its creation. It may acquire said real or personal property by gift, purchase, devise or bequest. It may sell and dispose of any property acquired as may be determined by the Executive Council.

The title to all property acquired shall be taken in the name of the corporation and shall be owned by the corporation. The transfer of property shall be by the President, attested by the Secretary and under the authority and approval of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 10. MEMBERSHIP. Membership shall be open to all those persons who are interested in and in sympathy with our aims and objectives as herein provided. The memberships, classes and dues therefor shall be fixed by the constitution and by-laws of this corporation.

ARTICLE 11. The corporation may make or alter a constitution or by-laws at pleasure for its own operation or authorize the Executive Council to do so.

ARTICLE 12. Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any annual meeting of the members or at any special meeting called for that purpose, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at such meeting.

(Signed)

Albert C. Berkowitz
Peter P. Laude
(Mrs. E. J.) Alice E. Petranek
J. Harold Ennis

Fred J. Pierce
Walter W. Barrett
Clifford O. Johnson
(Mrs. George) Frieda Crossley

State of Iowa, Polk County, ss.,

Be it remembered that on this 26th day of Febr., 1953, before me the undersigned Notary Public in and for Polk County, Iowa, personally appeared Albert C. Berkowitz, Peter P. Laude, Alice E. Petranek, J. Harold Ennis, Fred J. Pierce, Walter W. Barrett, Clifford O. Johnson and Frieda M. Crossley, to me personally known to be the identical persons named in and who executed the above foregoing Articles of Incorporation, affixed their respective signatures thereto in my presence and acknowledged to me the making and signing of the same as their voluntary act and deed.

Lulu I. Smith
Notary Public